

## BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation	)	
	)	
or Suspension of the Educator	)	<b>ORDER OF SUSPENSION</b>
	)	<b>(BREACH OF CONTRACT)</b>
Certificate of Meleisa S. Rauton	)	
	)	
Certificate 164203	)	

### SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 8, 2006. On October 12, 2006, the Office of Educator Certification sent Meleisa S. Rauton notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Rauton received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt, dated October 14, 2006. Ms. Rauton did not request a hearing within the time specified in the notice letter. After considering the information presented by the Department, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Rauton's certificate for one year.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Rauton holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has thirteen years of teaching experience. On July 20, 2006, Ms. Rauton signed a contract with the Greenville County School District (District) for the 2006-07 school year. She was assigned to teach mathematics at Mauldin High School. On August 29, 2006, Ms. Rauton submitted a letter to her principal asking to be released from her contract. The District's Director of Human Resources notified Ms. Rauton by letter of September 6, 2006, that she needed to submit more information as to the reason for her request, or be considered in breach of her contract. The District heard nothing further from Ms. Rauton and notified her on September 21, 2006, that the suspension of her certificate would be recommended to the State Board of Education. On September 26, 2006, the

District Board of Trustees voted to request the suspension of Mr. Rauton's certificate for breach of contract.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is sufficient information supporting its conclusion that Ms. Rauton breached her contract with the Greenville County School District, warranting the suspension of her certificate for a period of one year, through November 7, 2007. Should Ms. Rauton wish to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Educator Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /s/ Joe Isaac

Joe Isaac, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
November 8, 2006